

OUR HOME PAGE

HEALTH OF WOMEN IN THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD

study of the health of the industrial women as a whole has not progressed far enough to warrant much generalizing, says the U. S. Public Health Service. The effects on women's health of certain industries, however, been studied. In 1907 Massachusetts State Board of Health studied the health of the laundresses in the State. In 1915 the U. S. Public Health Service studied of the garment workers in New York City, and in 1916 that of the dressmakers in Cincinnati. In 1924 the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company studied that of the School Teachers in New York City. For several years, Dr. Clara P. Seippel, chief city physician of Chicago, studied the health of the women workers of that city. For a year more the U. S. Public Health Service has studied the health of Government employees, chiefly women. The garment workers were found suffering chiefly from constipation, dysmenorrhea (painful menstruation), and respiratory diseases. Affections of the nose and throat. Ninety-six per cent of these women, however, were immigrants; the conditions prevailing in the tenements at that time were very unsanitary.

men as it probably is of all women. And yet it may not figure in the reports as heavily as it should, for, according to Seippel, many industrial departments fail to record cases of it in which they can relieve suffering and keep the girls at work. Dysmenorrhea that is severe enough to keep a woman at home is apparently common among office workers but is less so among factory workers. Later investigations may show that the difference is not general, but is due to special conditions in the comparative few industries from which data has been obtained. Constipation is a common complaint in all walks of life, and may or may not be more common with working women than with others. However, one industrial cause that has to do with it is the condition of women's toilets. In some localities these fall far behind the standards prescribed by law and well enforced in most of the greater industrial States. This is especially true says Seippel, in regard to buildings constructed for other purposes and later converted into factories. In many of these the toilets are in themselves objectionable, or are so distant that women suffer for hours before visiting them and consequently in time develop highly nervous temperaments and suffer from sick headaches, constipation, and piles. The laws in regard to factories might well be extended to those city skyscrapers that allot only one toilet in the whole building to women and one on each floor to men. Yet such buildings usually house as many women (stenographers, dressmakers, milliners, hairdressers, etc.) as they do men. Many women cannot or will not take the time to go to a distant toilet and consequently wait until the lunch or quitting hours. In default of legal compulsion, possibly a suggestion to the owner of the building that additional facilities would probably greatly reduce much of the noon overcrowding, might be efficacious. Serious effects have attended the strike of coal handlers at the port of Barcelona. The discharge and transportation of merchandise have been practically at a standstill, and violence, resulting in death, has been reported in several instances.

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The Duty of Fire Prevention

Carelessness with cigarette butts, cigar ends, matches, pipe ashes, camp fires, fly smudges, railway locomotives, slash-burning operations—human carelessness of some kind accounts for over 95% of the forest fires in Ontario. It is impossible to say how many fires along railway lines are not due to engine sparks, but to the thoughtless smoker tossing away his cigarette or cigar butt. However, there is no doubt a fair number of forest fires originate in this way, and such are preventable. Each individual should realize his personal responsibility to be careful with fire in any form in northern Ontario.

Save Ontario's Forests

The Ontario fire ranger is at the mercy of all types of carelessness, and cannot prevent fires starting, as a rule. He can only attempt to limit the consequences. He is entitled to your help and co-operation by being careful with fire. Ontario Forestry Branch, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ontario.

ENGLAND. On May 14, 1923, the wholly unemployed on the live registers totalled approximately 1,168,000, a decrease of 35,196 during the preceding week.

HUNGARY. Latest available figures give the number of unemployed as 25,291 at the close of May, 1923, or a decrease of 6,810 during the month and 50 per cent during the year.

NORWAY. During the period from April 24 to May 25, 1923, the number of unemployed persons in Norway decreased from 19,300 to 14,800.

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